

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 11, 2012

Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary Salazar and Administrator Jackson:

We understand that a contaminated groundwater plume emanating from the Tuba City open dump on the Navajo and Hopi reservations poses an immediate threat to critical drinking-water supplies used by both tribes. We are also aware that the Department of the Interior (through the Bureau of Indian Affairs) and the Environmental Protection Agency are currently working on a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site. The plume's migration, however, may be outpacing your efforts. To stave off irreversible contamination of these drinking-water supplies, we encourage you, in coordination with the tribes, to immediately develop and implement a plume containment-and-control strategy. Such a strategy would go a long way toward preventing further degradation of critical resources, while BIA and EPA finalize the RI/FS and identify a long-term solution.

By way of background, it is our understanding that the BIA operated the Tuba City Open Dump from the 1950s until it stopped receiving waste in October 1997. We have also been informed that when in operation, it was an unlined, unpermitted, and unregulated facility. In all, the dump is approximately 30 acres in size, 28 acres of which are located on the Hopi Reservation, within view of the Hopi Village of Upper Moenkopi and the Navajo Nation's Tuba City Chapter.

We have also been informed that monitoring wells located adjacent to the dump indicate that contaminated groundwater is migrating from the site toward drinking-water wells; purportedly placing the plume within 3,000 feet of drinking-water wells serving the Village of Upper Moenkopi. Based on the information we received, these contaminants may include uranium, sulfates, and chloride, with uranium levels approximately seven times higher than the maximum contaminant levels allowed by the EPA. In light of the foregoing, we request that your respective agencies prioritize completion of the RI/FS, and that you urgently pursue a course of action aimed at containing and controlling the plume.

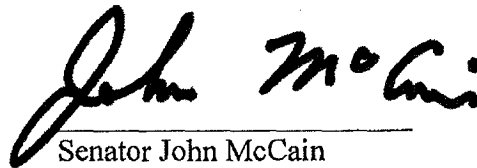
Thank you for your time and immediate attention to this important issue. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with the existing agency rules,

regulations, and ethical guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices with questions, and let us know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

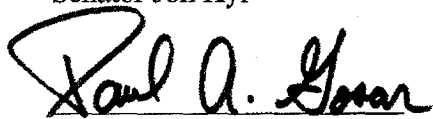
Sincerely,



Senator Jon Kyl



Senator John McCain



Congressman Paul Gosar



Congressman Trent Franks